

### **Amendments to the Specification:**

#### **In the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0038] with the following new paragraph [0038]:

A unique packet header may be required for example, when a packet will be transmitted from the network element via multiple output interfaces, “contexts” or “ports”. In such an embodiment, a separate queue may be maintained for each output port necessitating a unique packet header for each queue. However, the use of unique packet headers with embodiments of the present invention should not be limited to such situations. If a unique packet header is determined to be required, an additional storage element or MDU is allocated at process block [[420]] 421. The packet’s header is then stored or written into the newly allocated additional storage element associated with the packet at process block 422.

### **Amendments to the Claims**

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1, 5, 7, 11, 17, 24, 31, 35, 37, and 41 have been amended. No claims have been added.

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:  
storing packet data including a packet header and a packet body within a storage element, wherein storing packet data includes:  
storing said packet body within a common storage element;